



MERIC'S THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY FUN FACTS

The Plymouth settlers first celebrated Thanksgiving in 1621 making it a time for gathering with friends and family, giving thanks, and of course – eating! Did you know that Missouri ranks fourth in turkey production in the United States with an estimated 640 thousand pounds of turkey? This is just one of the facts MERIC has put together for you to gobble up to commemorate this holiday.

Abraham Lincoln

He declared Thanksgiving to be a National Holiday on Oct 3, 1863 making this year's Thanksgiving holiday over 150 years old!

Benjamin Franklin

If he had his way the Turkey would be the National bird instead of the Bald Eagle.

First Meal in Space

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's first meal in space after walking on the moon was foil packets with roasted turkey.

TURKEY FACTS

50 mph

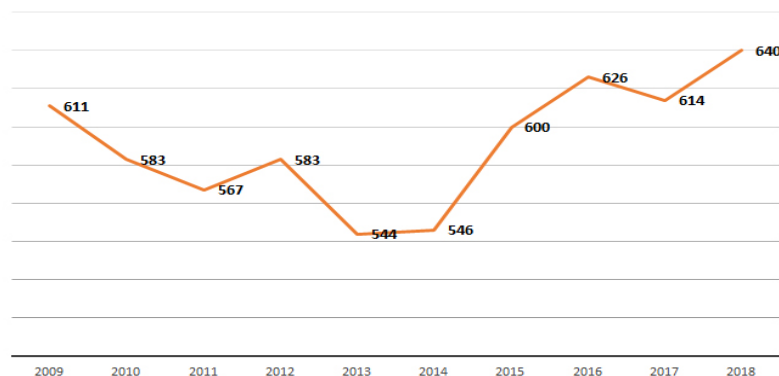
Top speed a wild turkey can fly. It can run up to 20 mph. Domesticated turkeys do not fly or run as fast.

640 thousand

Number of pounds of turkey produced in Missouri in 2018.

Missouri Pounds of Turkey Produced

*in thousands of pounds



\$327 million

Estimated value of the turkeys produced in Missouri for 2018. That's talking turkey!

7.6 billion

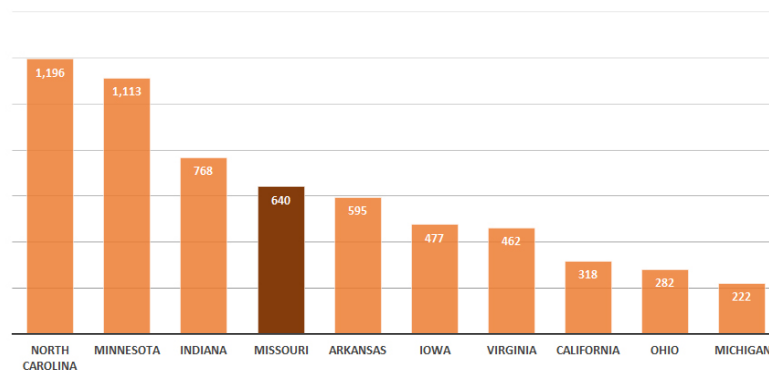
Estimated number of pounds of turkey raised in the US in 2018.

Fourth

Missouri's rank in turkey production (pounds of turkey produced) in the United States for 2018.

Top States for Turkey Production

* in thousands of pounds

**19.0 million**

Number of turkeys raised in Missouri in 2018.

\$1.41

Average retail price per pound for a frozen whole turkey in 2018 in the Nation.

86

Weight in pounds of the heaviest domestic turkey raised by Tyson in 1989.

20,060

Jobs supported by Missouri Turkey Industry.

\$47, 200

Average Pay for Turkey Industry wage and benefits.

Mexico

Over \$4.5 million in exports of turkey and turkey by-products were exported to Mexico from the U.S. through the 3rd quarter of 2019 followed by Canada (\$.95M) and Bermuda (\$.091M).



TRIMMING FACTS



1,257

The number of acres in Missouri used in pumpkin production. Illinois lead pumpkin production in the nation with 17,399 acres in pumpkin production, followed by Pennsylvania (6,871), Indiana (5,330), Michigan (5,123), California (4,386) and Texas (3,742).

1,043

The number of acres Missouri harvested in pumpkin production in 2017.

126

The number of farms producing sweet potatoes Missouri in 2017.

Wisconsin

The number one state in cranberry production in 2017 with 9.5 million barrels grown valued at over \$292.3 million. Approximately 95% of cranberries are processed for juice or fruit juice blends. Missouri does not produce any cranberries because the tart fruit prefers much cooler climates.



TRAVEL FACTS

Driving

Most popular way to travel over the Thanksgiving Holiday according to AAA.

55 million

Number of Americans that plan to travel more than 50 miles over the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. This is a 2.9% increase from last year and the highest travel volume since 2000.

Planes

With 4.6% growth, air travel will see the biggest increase in travel volume during the Thanksgiving holiday, with 4.45 million Americans expected to fly.

SOURCES

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